



# SITABALDI

REPRINT OF DOCUMENTS REGARDING THE ACTION  
AT SITABALDI ON THE 26TH AND 27TH NOVEM-  
BER 1817 AND THE SUBSEQUENT OPERA-  
TIONS NEAR NAGPUR




Nagpur

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## NOTE

N this pamphlet have been reprinted various documents regarding the operations at Sitabaldi and Nagpur in 1817. The fighting which is associated with the names of these places was the most serious in which British troops have been engaged in the Central Provinces, and the preservation of the records giving a detailed account of the operations is therefore a matter of some provincial interest.

The majority of the extracts have been supplied by the courtesy of Dr. Denison Ross, formerly in charge of the records of the Government of India. For the interesting information regarding the identity of the various Corps engaged, the Administration is indebted to Colonel Birdwood, Military Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief, and Mr. G. W. de Rhé Philipe, formerly of the Military Department, Mr. Philipe's extensive knowledge has enabled him to suggest a number of corrections, and the opportunity is taken of acknowledging his ready assistance.





# COLOURING.

British Cavalry

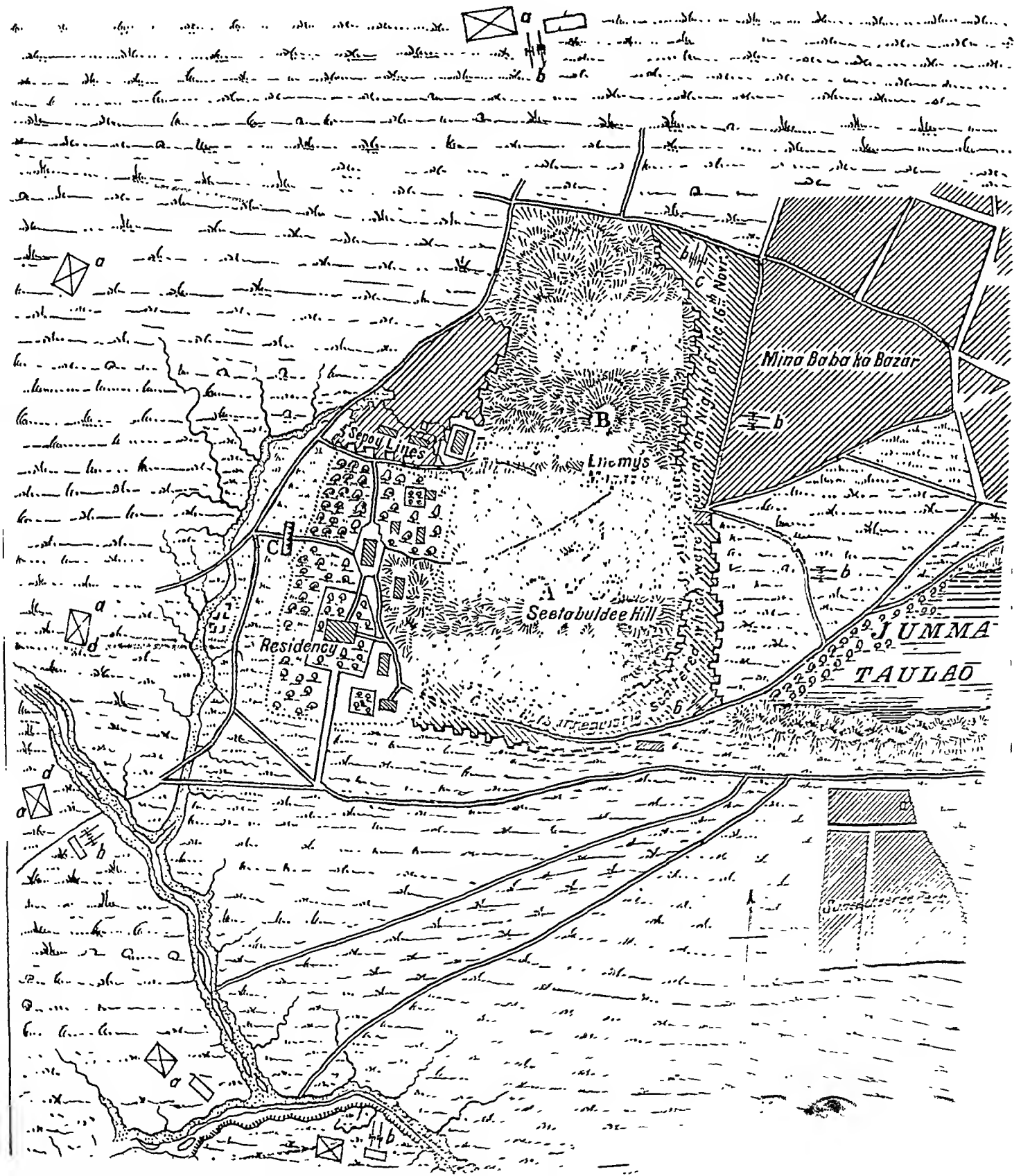
Enemy's Horse

Enemy's Infantry

## References for the Defence of SEETABULDEE

on the 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> November 1817  
By a British Detachment Commanded by  
**LIEUT. COL. H.S. SCOT**  
Against the Army of THE BHOOSLA

A. Position of the Nagpur Brigade  
(Do. 1<sup>st</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> Native.  
B. Infantry subsequently occupied  
by the Escort  
C. Position of 3 Troops Bengal Caval.  
a.a. Do of Enemy's Horse and Foot.  
b.b.b. Enemy's Batteries.  
c.c.c. Suburbs from which the  
Arabs attacked the British P.  
d.d. Enemy's Horse charged by Bengal  
Cavalry.





# INTRODUCTION

THE following summary of the events that led up to or were connected with the action at Sitabaldi and the fighting at Nagpur in 1817 is taken mainly from Grant Duff's "History of the Mahrattas." \*

In 1813 the Marquis of Hastings (then Earl of Moira) assumed charge of the Government of India from Lord Minto, and soon after began to make dispositions for the suppression of the hordes of Pindaris and other marauders that infested Central India. The execution of his plans was, however, somewhat delayed by the Nepalese war.

The ruler of Nagpur at the time was Raghuji Bhonsla, and the conclusion of a defensive treaty with him formed a part of the arrangements contemplated. Raghuji, however, rejected the terms that were offered him.

In March 1816 the Nepalese war came to an end. In the same month Raghuji died, and was succeeded by his son Parsoji, a man of weak intellect. His cousin, Madhoji, better known as Appa Sahib, who was chosen to be regent, applied to be admitted to the defensive alliance that had been offered to Raghuji, and in May 1816 a treaty was signed by which Appa Sahib undertook to pay seven and a half lakhs a year for the expenses of a subsidiary force and to maintain a contingent of horse and foot.

A subsidiary force was formed in pursuance of this treaty and was maintained in or about Nagpur, while Appa Sahib was consolidating his authority, which he had completely established by

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\* More detailed information may be found in—

Blacker's *History of the Mahratta War* (from which the plan reprinted in this pamphlet has been taken).

Prinsep's *Political and Military Transactions in India during the administration of the Marquess of Hastings*.

Wilson's *History of the Madras Army*.

*Papers respecting the Pindari and Mahratta Wars* (printed in 1824).



October. He was then, however, approached by emissaries of the Peshwa, and came over to the views of the Poona Court. In February, 1817, Parsoji died suddenly, and it was afterwards discovered that he had been removed by Appa Sahib, in order, it is believed, to prevent the rise of an opposition party in the State should Appa Sahib at any time throw off the support of the British.

In 1815-16 the Pindaris became increasingly active, and the Governor-General resolved to put his plans into execution, and to take measures after the rains of 1817 for the complete suppression and extirpation of these plunderers. The political arrangements which he made for the purpose were chiefly in Upper India and need not be mentioned here; but the military dispositions require a brief notice. Eleven divisions and two separate brigades of troops were allotted for the operations, six of which were organised in the Deccan under the orders of Sir Thomas Hislop, Commander-in-Chief in Madras. One division was formed in Guzerat, and four, with the two separate brigades, under the personal direction of the Governor-General were to co-operate from Upper India.

The forces in the Deccan and Guzerat amounted to over 57,000 men, of whom 5,255 were cavalry, while the troops in Upper India consisted of 34,000 men including 5,000 cavalry. These were regular troops, and there were in addition about 13,000 irregular horse with the Deccan Divisions and 10,000 with those in the north.

The 1st and 3rd Divisions of the Deccan Army under Sir Thomas Hislop and Sir John Malcolm were to advance into Malwa, crossing the Nerbudda at Hindia. The 2nd and 4th under Generals Doveton and Smith were to occupy positions in Berar and Khandesh, while the 5th Division, which consisted of the Nagpur Subsidiary Force under Colonel Adams, was to march by Hoshangabad. The Guzerat Division was to penetrate into Malwa by

Dohad. Of the Upper India troops two divisions were held in reserve. The others were assembled at or near Rewari, Agra, Kalpi and Kalinjar.

The Peshwa at this time was Baji Rao (the son of Raghoba), who came into power in 1802, and with whom the treaty of Bassein (1802) had been concluded. During the early part of the year his intrigues had given rise to much anxiety at Poona, and it was only by adopting a vigorous policy and threatening to resort to force that Mr. Elphinstone succeeded in obtaining the assent of the Peshwa in May to a treaty, under which he engaged to have no communication with any foreign power whatever, renounced all rights beyond the boundary of his own dominions between the Tungabhadra and Nerbudda, and relinquished all future demands on the Gaekwar. He also agreed to cede territory yielding 34 lakhs of rupees in place of furnishing the contingent of 5,000 horse and 3,000 foot required by the treaty of Bassein. The cession included Dharwar, the northern Konkan, Ahmedabad, and all the Peshwa's rights north of the Nerbudda, as well as Melghat.

While agreeing to these arrangements, however, he continued his intrigues, especially throwing obstacles in the way of the recruitment of the subsidiary levies ; he convinced Sir John Malcolm that he would now side heartily with the British ; while during an absence from Poona from July to September he was making preparations for an open attack on the British power as soon as his arrangements should be completed. Sir John Malcolm had encouraged him to recruit his army in order to show his loyalty by giving assistance in the Pindari wars, and of this encouragement he took advantage to raise troops.

On the 5th of November his plans were completed, and on the afternoon of that day his troops moved out of Poona, the Residency was plundered and burnt, and an attack made on the British

force which had moved from Kirkee on Poona. The numbers of the latter are said to have been 2,800, of whom 800 were Europeans. The Peshwa's force, which is believed to have reached the number of 18,000 horse and 8 000 foot, was defeated with a loss of 500 killed and wounded. The victors lost 86. The Peshwa then left Poona, and further fighting took place in the neighbouring districts throughout the cold weather, the operations including the memorable defence of Koregaon. Two divisions of the Deccan army were withdrawn to pursue the Mahratta troops, and subjugate the country, and eventually in June, 1818, Baji Rao gave himself up to Sir John Malcolm. Bithur, near Cawnpore, was appointed as his place of residence, and there he remained till his death in 1851. His adopted son Dhondu Pant, whose succession the British Government refused to recognize, was the Nana Sahib of the Mutiny.

To return now to Nagpur. On the death of Parsoji in February, 1817, Appa Sahib, whose share in that Chief's death had not been discovered, was proclaimed his successor under the name of Madhoji Bhonsla. He was in constant communication with Poona, and when the news arrived that the Peshwa had attacked the British troops, Appa Sahib decided to make common cause with him and began to increase his forces. Mr. Jenkins on this arranged that one brigade of the division commanded by Colonel Adams should be left south of the Nerbudda, and that a column should be held in readiness to march on Nagpur. Appa Sahib meanwhile made professions of friendliness, but on the 24th of November he asked the Resident to attend at a ceremony which he had arranged for the formal acceptance of a khillat and title conferred on him by the Peshwa. On the Resident's protesting, Appa Sahib's troops took up positions threatening the Residency, whereupon Mr. Jenkins brought in the troops cantoned near Telingkeri and despatched messengers to call in the 2nd Division of the Deccan army (General

Doveton's). Grant Duff then gives the following account of the fighting and subsequent operations :—

The whole force at Nagpur consisted of a brigade of two battalions of Madras Native Infantry—the 1st Battalion, 20th Regiment, and 1st Battalion, 24th Regiment—both considerably reduced by sickness, the Resident's escort of two companies of Native Infantry,\* three troops of the 6th Regiment of Bengal Native Cavalry, and four six-pounders manned by Europeans of the Madras Artillery. Lieutenant-Colonel Hopeton Scott was the senior officer.

The Residency lies to the west of the city of Nagpur, and is separated from it by a rocky hill, running north and south, called Seetabuldee. At each extremity of this hill, and distant about 30 yards from each other, are two eminences ; that to the north, which is close to the Residency, is considerably larger and a little higher than that to the south ; but the base of the latter, being close to the huts of a village communicating with the suburbs, and affording facility to the approach of irregulars, was a most important point, and was occupied by 300 men of the 24th Regiment under Captain Sadler, supported by a six-pounder. The three troops of Cavalry under Captain Fitzgerald occupied the enclosures surrounding the Residency, being behind and partly to the right of the larger hill, upon which the remainder of the force was posted. In the evening, as the British pickets were about to be placed, a party was fired upon from the village at the bottom of the lower hill ; but under the possibility of a mistake they forbore returning it, until, upon a continuance of the aggression, they gave their fire, and retired upon the smaller hill, under a heavy discharge of matchlocks, which became the general signal for an attack on the British position. A smart fire was maintained on both sides till two o'clock in the morning, when it slackened on the part of the Mahrattas, but was renewed with great fury with cannon and musketry at daylight. The heaviest loss which the British had hitherto sustained was at the smaller hill. Frequent attempts had been made by the Arabs to carry it, and that post had been, in consequence of the slaughter, repeatedly reinforced. At last, by the accidental explosion of a tumbril, some confusion was created, of which the Arabs took immediate advantage, charged up the hill sword in hand, carried it, and immediately turned the gun against the larger hill, where the casualties became distressingly severe. Emboldened by their success, the enemy's horse and foot closed in from every direction, and prepared for a general assault. To add to this appalling crisis, the Arabs got into the huts of the British troops, and the shrieks of the women and children

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\* The Resident's Escort was composed of Bengal sepoy—volunteers from various Battalions of Bengal Native Infantry.

reached the ears of the sepoys. The Residency grounds, where Captain Fitzgerald was posted, were also attacked; guns were brought up, and bodies of horse threatened to break in. Captain Fitzgerald had repeatedly applied for permission to charge, and was as often prevented by orders from the Commanding Officer; but seeing the impending destruction, he made a last attempt to obtain leave. Colonel Scott's reply was "Tell him to charge at his peril." "At my peril be it," said the gallant Fitzgerald, on receiving this answer,\* and immediately gave the word to advance. As soon as he could form clear of the enclosures, he charged the principal body of horse, drove them from two guns by which they were supported, pursued them to some distance, cut a body of infantry accompanying them to pieces, and brought back with him the captured guns. The infantry posted on the hill witnessed this exploit with loud huzzas; the greatest animation was kindled amongst them: it was proposed to storm the smaller hill as soon as the Cavalry returned, but another explosion of ammunition having taken place amongst the Arabs on the south hill, the same accident by which it had been lost, men and officers, mingling together, rushed forward: irresistible under such an impulse, they carried everything before them, pursued the Arabs down the hill, took two of their guns, spiked them, and returned to their posts. The Arabs again assembled, and evinced a determination to recover their ground; but as they were preparing to

\* This is a "popular tale," and probably had no better foundation than camp gossip. In his orders of the day (*Papers respecting the Pindarry and Mahratta Wars*, page 135) Colonel Scott specially commends Captain Fitzgerald "for his promptitude and decision in seizing the critical moment for making his attack"; and states that "the detachment of three troops of the sixth Regiment Bengal Cavalry have covered themselves with glory in charging so greatly a superior body of the enemy's cavalry." Mr. de Rhé Philipe has called attention to the following extracts from the Autobiography of Sir John Hearsey, in the recently published Lives of that family. General Hearsey, as a cornet in the 6th Bengal Cavalry, took part and was wounded in the charge, and his account shows that Colonel Scott himself gave the order to charge.

Page 255: "Captain Fitzgerald, finding that our men and horses would be mown down without our having a chance of doing anything, sent me to point out to Brigadier Scott the position we were in, and to take any orders he might choose to send us. Brigadier Scott told me to direct Captain Fitzgerald to take the first opportunity of charging."

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Page 257. "Brigadier Scott then called to me to order Captain Fitzgerald to take the first favourable opportunity that might occur to charge the enemy."

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advance a troop of cavalry under Cornet Smith\* charged round the base of the hill, took them in flank, and dispersed them. The British troops now advanced from the hills, drove the infantry from the adjoining huts, and by noon this trying conflict, only equalled during the war by the defence of Korygaom, had wholly ceased. Instances of heroism equal to that of Pattinson are adducible, particularly that of Lieutenant John Grant,† Adjutant of the 24th Regiment, who, though impeded by two severe wounds, was foremost in the storm of the smaller hill, and received a third and mortal wound as the post was carried.

The British had not 1,400 ‡ men fit for duty in the defence of Seetabuldee, whereas the army of Appa Sahib amounted to 18,000 men, half of whom were infantry, and of these 3,000 or 4,000 were Arabs, who fought with much resolution. The British lost 333 § killed and wounded, amongst whom twelve were European officers (including Mr. Sotheby of the Civil Service, 1st Assistant to the Resident, who was killed). The Mahrattas lost about an equal number. The disproportion at Nagpur was not much greater than at Poona: but the presence of a European regiment, and the advantage of acting offensively, gave a very different character to the contest.

Appa Sahib being foiled in his treacherous attempt, sent wukeels to express his sorrow, and to disavow his having authorised the attack; but Mr. Jenkins refused to treat with him under present circumstances, until he disbanded his troops, though he agreed to a suspension of hostilities. Reinforcements poured into Nagpur from all quarters. Lieutenant-Colonel Gahan with a brigade from Colonel Adams' Division appeared on the 29th November, Major Pitman arrived with a detachment on the 5th December, and General Doveton, with the whole 2nd Division, had reached Nagpur before the middle of that month.

On the morning of 15th December Mr. Jenkins demanded the absolute submission of Appa Sahib, requiring of him to disband his troops, to place his territory at the disposal of the British Government, and to surrender himself as a hostage for the performance of these conditions; but he was, at the same time, given to understand that, upon compliance, no harder terms should be enforced than a cession of territory equal to meet the expenses of the subsidiary force, and as much control in his internal government as should prevent similar treachery in future. Till four o'clock on

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\* Afterwards Lieut.-Colonel Lucius Horton Smith, at one time Commandant of Skinner's Horse.

† His name was *George* Grant.

‡ Incorrect. The number present (excluding sick, unarmed recruits, and recruit boys) was 1,795, as shown in the Return on page 48.

§ Incorrect. The casualties amounted to 365, including *sixteen* British officers, as shown in the Return on page 48.

the following morning was the time allowed for his acceptance of the terms. At six o'clock it was intimated that the troops would not permit Appa Sahib to come to the Residency as he wished; a respite of three days was requested, but three hours only were granted. When the time expired, the troops advanced; Appa Sahib then came in, and the army was halted in hopes that his force would be disbanded and his guns given up. Such of the latter as were in the arsenal were surrendered, but on advancing to take possession of the others, a cannonade was opened upon the British troops. The line was in consequence immediately formed, and the guns were stormed and taken, but with the loss of 141\* men in killed and wounded. Two of the Appa Sahib's officers, Gunpat Rao and Mun Bhut, were the persons who maintained this resistance, and it was supposed, without their master's orders. Gunpat Rao afterwards went off towards the Peshwa's territory and joined Baji Rao, as already mentioned, near Sholapoor; but Mun Bhut, with the Arabs, retired to the fort of Nagpur, where an attempt was made to storm one of the gates on the 24th December, and repulsed with the loss of 269 † men in killed and wounded. The Arabs afterwards offered to surrender, on being permitted to march out with their property, families, and arms—terms which were admitted, because time was of importance, and there was no efficient battering train on the spot.

On the 6th of January an engagement was drawn up reinstating the Appa Sahib until the pleasure of the Governor-General was known, on his agreeing to cede certain territories in lieu of the subsidy, to conduct his affairs according to the advice of the Resident, to give up such forts as might be demanded, and to allow of the erection of military works in Sitabaldi. The Governor-General disapproved of the restoration of the Appa Sahib to power, but decided that the treaty must be confirmed. Appa Sahib, however, renewed his intrigues, attempted to incite the Gonds to give trouble and applied to Baji Rao for assistance. He was arrested in March and despatched to Allahabad, but on the way escaped and found an asylum with the Gonds in the Mahadeo hills, where Cheetoo, the Pindari, joined him. Eventually he made his way to Upper India, and died in Rajputana in 1860.

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\* The number of casualties was, correctly, 144.

† Incorrect. The number of casualties was 307.

The extracts included in this pamphlet are chiefly reprints of papers published in the Gazettes or the Military Calendar giving an account of the fighting at Sitabaldi.

Amongst the troops that marched to the Resident's relief was the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Scots, a regiment which has recently been stationed at Kampti; an extract from the regimental records giving some particulars of their march from Ellichpur has been kindly furnished by Colonel Murray, Commanding the 2nd Battalion, and is included in this collection of papers, along with a copy of the dispositions made by General Doveton for the fighting on December 16th. This last document has been found amongst the old records of the Residency at Nagpur, and is of some interest.

It will no doubt interest many to identify the several Corps employed in the operations at and about Nagpur in November and December, 1817. The following lists show those engaged on each occasion, and foot-notes have been appended indicating in each case the present designation of those which still continue to exist and the ultimate fate of those which have in the course of time disappeared from the lists of the Army:—

*Sitabaldi, 26th and 27th November, 1817.*

Madras Native Artillery (Detachment) (1).

Madras Body Guard (Detachment) (2).

6th Bengal Native Cavalry (3 troops) (3).

1st Battalion, 20th Madras Native Infantry (4).

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(1) Disbanded in 1864, except one company, which was retained until 1870, and then broken up.

(2) Still exists under the same designation.

(3) Mutinied at Jalandhur on the 7th June 1857, and went off to Delhi.

(4) Became the 39th Madras Native Infantry in 1824, and was disbanded in 1882.



1st Battalion, 24th Madras Native Infantry (5).

The Resident's Escort (6).

The Nagpore Battalion (7).

*Nagpur, 16th December 1817.*

Madras Artillery, European and Native (Detachments) (8).

(5) Became the 1st Battalion, 1st Madras Native Infantry, in 1818, having, in acknowledgment of its gallant conduct at Sitabaldi, been restored to its former position, which had been forfeited for the share taken by the old 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, in the Mutiny at Vellore in 1806. Became the 1st Madras Native Infantry in 1824, and is now styled the "61st (The Prince of Wales' Own) Pioneers."

(6) Formed under the orders contained in G. O. C. C., dated the 19th December 1805, and consisted of two companies of volunteers from the Native Infantry regiments of the Bengal Army. Though it was in the thickest of the desperate fighting at Sitabaldi, and sustained, in proportion to its numbers, heavier loss than any corps there engaged, Colonel Scott in his orders of the day, acknowledging the services of the force, made absolutely no mention of the Escort and of the devoted gallantry it had displayed from first to last. The Escort was disbanded by G. O. C. C. dated the 6th June 1820. Captain Lloyd, who commanded it at Sitabaldi, was afterwards Sir William Lloyd, the eminent Himalayan explorer.

(7) This was a corps raised as part of the contingent which Appa Sahib was required to maintain. It was commanded in the battle of Sitabaldi by Captain Charles E. O. Jenkins, of the Bengal Artillery, who appears to have had the local rank of Major while in this employment. He was a younger brother of the Resident, Mr. (afterwards Sir Richard) Jenkins, Bombay Civil Service. The corps is no longer in existence.

(8) The Madras European Artillery was absorbed into the Royal Artillery in 1862. The Native Artillery was disbanded in 1864 and (the last remaining company) in 1870.

Madras Sappers and Miners (Detachment) (9).

6th Bengal Native Cavalry (10).

6th Madras Native Cavalry (11).

Nizam's Reformed Horse (one risallah) (12).

2nd Battalion, 1st Foot (eight companies) (13).

1st Battalion, 22nd Bengal Native Infantry (14).

1st Battalion, 2nd Madras Native Infantry (flank companies) (15).

1st Battalion, 11th Madras Native Infantry (16).

1st Battalion, 12th Madras Native Infantry (17).

(9) This was a corps composed of 32 volunteers from the Madras European Regiment and 50 from the Madras Native Pioneers, formed in 1817 for service during the war. It was re-organised in 1818 with an increased establishment, but the augmentation was never really carried out, and the corps was disbanded in 1821.

(10) See Note (3) on page 9.

(11) Disbanded in 1860.

(12) Part of the Nizam's Cavalry, which was formed into three regiments in 1826. These three corps became the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Regiments of Cavalry of the Hyderabad Contingent in 1854, and their only existing representative is now the corps styled the "29th Lancers (Deccan Horse)."

(13) Now the 2nd Battalion Royal Scots (The Lothian Regiment). The flank companies were absent with the army under the command of Sir Thomas Hislop, and were engaged in the battle of Mahidpur on the 21st December, 1817.

(14) Became the 43rd Bengal Native Infantry in 1824. Still exists under the designation of the "6th Jat Light Infantry."

(15) Became the 2nd Madras Native Infantry in 1824. Is now styled the "62nd Punjabis."

(16) Became the 21st Madras Native Infantry in 1824. Now goes under the designation of the "81st Pioneers."

(17) Became the 23rd Madras Native Infantry in 1824. Is now styled the "83rd Wallajahbad Light Infantry."

- 2nd Battalion, 13th Madras Native Infantry (flank companies) (18).  
 2nd Battalion, 14th Madras Native Infantry (one company) (19).  
 2nd Battalion, 24th Madras Native Infantry (20).

*Nagpur, 19th to 24th December, 1817.*

- Madras Artillery (Detachment).  
 Madras Sappers and Miners (Detachment).  
 1st Madras Pioneers (Detachment) (21);  
 2nd Battalion, 1st Foot (The Royal Scots), (eight companies).  
 1st Battalion 22nd Bengal Native Infantry.  
 1st Battalion, 2nd Madras Native Infantry (flank companies).  
 1st Battalion, 11th Madras Native Infantry.  
 1st Battalion, 12th Madras Native Infantry.  
 2nd Battalion, 13th Madras Native Infantry (flank companies).  
 1st Battalion, 20th Madras Native Infantry (flank companies).  
 1st Battalion, 24th Madras Native Infantry (flank companies).  
 2nd Battalion 24th Madras Native Infantry.  
 Major Pitman's Brigade of the Nizam's Army (22).

(18) Became the 26th Madras Native Infantry in 1824. Still exists under the designation of the "86th Carnatic Infantry."

(19) Became the 28th Madras Native Infantry in 1824. Is now styled the "88th Carnatic Infantry." The rest of the regiment was with the force under the command of Sir Thomas Hislop.

(20) Became the 2nd Battalion, 1st Madras Native Infantry, in 1818 under the circumstances detailed in Note (5). Became the 17th Madras Native Infantry in 1824, and still exists under the title of the "77th Moplah Rifles."

(21) Raised originally in 1780, augmented in succeeding years and converted into the Corps of Madras Sappers and Miners in 1831.

(22) This consisted of two regiments of Berar Infantry. One of these, the 3rd, afterwards became the 4th Regiment of Infantry, Hyderabad Contingent, and still exists under the designation of the "97th Deccan Infantry."

EXTRACTS FROM GOVERNMENT GAZETTES AND  
OTHER SOURCES REGARDING THE FIGHTING  
AT SITABALDI AND NAGPUR.



# EXTRACTS FROM GOVERNMENT GAZETTES AND OTHER SOURCES REGARDING THE FIGHTING AT SITABALDI AND NAGPUR.

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SUPPLEMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 18, 1817.

A letter from Girwa-nuddee of the 29th alludes to the agitated appearance of affairs at Nagpur, and intimates that Mr. Jenkins, the Resident, was concentrating all the forces within his authority for the purpose of making a resolute defense, or of attacking the hostile troops should any interruption arise to a free correspondence with our armies. There were only 4 companies at Girwa-nuddee, and about 4,000 men within a few miles. Recent accounts however state that in consequence of orders from Sir Thomas Hislop, Major Pitman, who commands the irregular Cavalry and Infantry corps belonging to the Nizam, had reached Omruwuttee and was proceeding by forced marches to Nagpur. Colonel Gahan also marched from Husseinabad on the 21st, with a strong detachment of Cavalry and Infantry, to the support of the Resident. These reinforcements would, it is hoped, be in time to prevent the bad effects of any hostile measure on the part of the Rajah's advisers. But we still think that the result of the Peishwa's revolt will be a sufficient warning to the discontented in Berar. It is not probable that after such an occurrence they will hazard a despairing effort to expel the Resident from the capital, should even the current reports of their rebellious views be confirmed to the fullest extent.

Since writing the above, we have been informed, that the force with the Resident of Nagpur amounts to four Battalions and a Regiment of Cavalry, which must remove all apprehension relative to affairs in that quarter.

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY, TUESDAY  
MORNING, DECEMBER 23, 1817.

CALCUTTA.

Authentic intelligence having been received from Nagpur, relative to affairs in that quarter, we hasten to relieve the anxiety of our readers, by informing them of the safety of the Residency, and its noble defenders. The Rajah commenced his attack on our force on the evening of the 26th of November, and the firing did not cease till eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the following day. Our Officers and Soldiers, as may be imagined, fought with the greatest courage. They were at one time nearly surrounded, but the charge of the 3 troops of Bengal Cavalry, which was conducted with the most determined valour and impetuosity, repelled the enemy, who in a short time moved off in all directions. We had only 1,200 men in action, about 300 of whom were killed and wounded. Amongst the killed we regret to observe the names of Mr. Sotheby, Capt. Sadler, 24th, Dr. Neven, Lt. Clarke, 20th, and Lieut. Grant, 24th. Soon after this brilliant defeat of the enemy, Col. Gahan arrived at Nagpur, with 6 Companies of Bengal Infantry and 3 troops of Bengal Cavalry, with their Gallopers. The remaining four Companies, with the Battalion guns, were expected to be up on the 29th. This, and other reinforcements pouring in, would, it was supposed, effectually prevent a renewal of hostilities by the Rajah.

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APPENDIX TO THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, THURSDAY,  
JANUARY 1, 1818.

*Further Particulars of the Action at Nagpur on the 26th  
and 27th of November.*

On the 26th of November, the troops remaining at Nagpore, consisting of the 1st Battalion, 20th, and 1st Battalion, 24th Regi-

ments of Madras Native Infantry, with 4 guns, under Lieutenant Maxwell of the Coast Artillery, 3 troops of the 6th Regiment of Bengal Native Cavalry and the Residency escort of about 120 men, took post on the high grounds near the Residency, and immediately between it and the city of Nagpore. Large bodies of Arabs had been observed during the day to occupy the huts at the foot of the British position and to plant 6 guns directly against it; the 1st Battalion, 24th Regiment, was posted on the left on a small hill; the remainder of the force on the principal and largest hill, to the right.

At sunset, whilst the sentries were being posted, the Arabs opened a smart fire, and immediately commenced a general assault upon the British position; their greatest efforts were directed against the hill on the left. It was gallantly and successfully defended by Captain Sadler and the 24th Regiment, but at one time they were so nearly pressed, that a reinforcement of 3 European Officers and 70 Sepoys from the 1st Battalion, 20th Regiment, was sent to their assistance; the Arabs had near at one time penetrated the lines of defence. In this assault Captain Sadler was killed and his Adjutant, Lieutenant Grant, received 2 wounds. On the right the attack was principally against that face of the hill fronting the city; 10 guns were brought to bear upon it, and a heavy fire kept up for 5 hours, the Arabs issuing from behind the huts, firing and returning. Two tumbrils having accidentally exploded, the Arabs seized the opportunity and made a rush up the hill. They were received with the greatest steadiness and repulsed. Several men were scratched by the explosion; their cries and those of the wounded, together with the howls of the Arabs whilst advancing to the assault, rendered the scene awful in the extreme. After a severe contest, successfully maintained by the small and gallant force opposed to the assailants, the latter retired, but kept



up a smart fire upon both hills throughout the night; their guns were served and their rockets flew about in every direction.

Towards morning, the 1st Battalion, 24th, were so fatigued with their continued exertions in the defence of their post, that the Residency escort, under Captain Lloyd, was sent to their assistance.

In the morning of the 27th, the British position was completely surrounded by clouds of Horse and large bodies of Infantry: before 10 o'clock, the plain for nearly a mile was entirely covered with them: a body of Horse entered the compound of the house in which the Ladies had been placed. Fortunately at that instant, Captain Fitzgerald, with his 3 troops, charged a large body of them in the most gallant and successful manner; he passed and re-passed through them twice and dispersed them with an immense loss: he afterwards charged and took 2 guns. This success inspired the Troops on the hill with fresh spirits. About 11 o'clock a numerous body of the enemy advanced slowly and in compact order towards the small hill on the left; when close to it, a large party of Arabs rushed up and carried the defences, sword in hand; they immediately ran up several guns to the summit and opened a dreadfully destructive fire upon the 24th Regiment and escort as they retired down the hill. At the foot of it, a rally was made, and one of the enemy's tumbrils exploding, immediate advantage was taken by our gallant Troops, who, rushing up to the assault, re-took their position and repulsed the enemy in every direction—a party of the 1st Battalion, 20th Regt., under Capt. Stone, at the same instant making a dash at another body of Arabs, whom they also routed and took from them two guns and 12 prisoners. The enemy, now completely dispirited by their failure in the assault and the success of our Troops, desisted from any further attacks and retired to a distance. In the assault upon the small hills, Lieut.

Grant of the 24th Regiment received a third wound, which proved fatal. Lieutenant Clarke, Dr. Neven and Mr. Sotheby were killed by the cannonade, the latter whilst bravely endeavouring to rally the escort; Captain Lloyd was severely wounded.

During the temporary possession of the hill by the Arabs, they entered the hospital of the 24th Regiment and barbarously murdered every person of it.

The total British loss is 9 European Artillery men, and upwards of 300 Natives killed and wounded.

The 1st Battalion, 24th, lost 149: the 1st Battalion, 20th Regiment, 63, and the Escort, 45.

*Officers killed*:—Captain Sadler, 24th Regiment; Lieutenant and Adjutant Grant, 24th Regiment; Lieut. Clarke, 20th Regiment (belonging to the party sent to assist the 25th): Doctor Neven of the Escort, and Mr Sotheby.

*Officers wounded*:—Major McKenzie, 20th Regiment, slightly; Captain Pew, 20th Regiment, severely; Lieutenant Dun, 20th Regiment, slightly (also with the party sent to the 24th); Captain Charlesworth, 24th Regiment, severely; Lieutenant Thullier, 24th Regiment, severely; Lieutenant Bayly, 11th Native Infantry (attached to the Residency), severely; Captain Lloyd of the Escort, severely; and Cornets Hearsey and Smith of the 6th Bengal Cavalry, both severely. (*Cal. Gaz.*)

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GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1818.

It is but justice to the intrepidity of Captain Fitzgerald, to record that he commanded the Cavalry in the brilliant action at Nagpore.

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The impression made upon the Rajah of Nagpore by the signal defeat which he sustained on the 27th ultimo appears to have had a powerful effect on his mind, and has entirely changed his policy, if he ever was induced to believe that there was any probability of succeeding in the treacherous enterprise undertaken in his name. He is now said to be completely humble, but whether his professions are sincere or evasive, our resources in arms appear to be too commanding to give room for apprehension about any struggle that may be provoked by his own want of faith, or the hostility and influence of his discontented retainers. Immediately after the action of the 27th, the Baee, the widow of Ragojee Bhoonslah, dispatched a message to Mr. Jenkins, soliciting his protection, and denying all concurrence in the conduct which had brought on the breach of tranquillity that had taken place.

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SUPPLEMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, THURSDAY,  
JANUARY 8, 1818.

JOURNAL OF THE CENTRE DIVISION OF THE ARMY FROM  
CAWNPORE.—(*Contd.*)

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17th—Halted. This evening a Royal salute was fired from the Artillery Park in honour of a decisive victory gained by the British troops over the Nagpoor rajah's forces.

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SUPPLEMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, THURSDAY,  
JANUARY 8, 1818.

THE GRAND ARMY.

*Extract from a Letter from an officer at Nagpore, containing the details of the affair of the 26th and 27th November.*

“ On the 25th, the Contingent made a move near the Residency and Mr. Jenkins then resolved on waiting no longer. The troops were immediately ordered from Cantonments, and occupied a position on two hills, at the foot of which the Residency lies. The 20th and Escort were on the great hill, at each extremity of which was a six-pounder—the 24th with two six-pounders on the smaller hill. The 3 Troops of Bengal Cavalry were below, near the Residency.”

“ The Enemy had all the huts below the hills filled with Arabs to the amount of 1,500 or 2,000, who, being within 150 yards from the top of the Hill, completely *covered* it with Troops. An immense body of Horse filled the whole country round the Residency, while about 25 guns of various calibre played incessantly on the Hills. The 24th occupied the little Hill, which could not well contain half their numbers, exposed from head to foot to the sheltered Arabs, who lay within forty or fifty yards of them. The firing commenced at six o'clock on the evening of the 26th, and the whole of the position was attacked at the same time with Guns, Rockets and Musketry, till 2 in the morning, when a short pause took place. The 24th, exposed as I have said, lost during this time their Commanding Officer and Adjutant killed, and next in Command desperately wounded, and another Officer with upwards of 100 Sepoys. Taking advantage of the short remission in firing, some bags of Rice were got to the Hill, which served them so effectually as a breastwork, that they did not lose more than 10 men afterwards.

At daybreak they were relieved by the escort under Captain Lloyd consisting of 150 Men, and 50 from the 20th. The action recommenced about six in the morning of the 27th. The point of the great Hill, where Captain Bayley commanded, had likewise been warmly attacked, and severe loss was sustained from the Arab Musketry and the Guns from the Pettah. A Tumbril blew up here and occasioned great loss, terror and confusion, which the Arabs taking advantage, rushed up the Hill with loud cries and were very near carrying it."

"The crisis was now approaching; about 10 o'clock a body of Arabs charged the little hill, which completely commanded the large one occupied by the escort, a party of the 20th and one gun, and succeeded in carrying it. The Arabs then not only turned one of our six-pounders on us, but got up some four-pounders of their own and directed them towards the great hill, the only part of the position that remained to us, and advanced rapidly into the space between the two hills and commenced a fire of Matchlocks on our troops on the great hill, not fifty yards from them."

"The fire which they directed from our own six-pounder did great execution—the very first shot taking off the heads of Doctor Nevin and Lieutenant Clarke, and a round of Grape killed Mr. Sotheby, 2nd Assistant, and four others. The Horse on the plain, seeing the Arabs in possession of the Hill, made a general rush on all sides of the position and advanced into the very compound of the Residency: this was a trying moment and a little more would have done for the whole. Happily the 3 Troops of the 6th Bengal Cavalry at this instant charged the Enemy's Horse, (s. and s. e.) and drove them before them in great style, half the party stuck to the flying enemy, while the other half charged.

the 'Rajah's' two battalions to the s. e., routed them and took their Guns, of which the Troopers understanding the use, turned them upon the Enemy with great effect; all was now in confusion on the plain."

"On the little hill (which was in possession of the Arabs) a tumbril blew up with an immense explosion; encouraged by this fortunate accident, and animated by the gallant example of the Cavalry, the Escort with some of the 24th Sepoys, headed by all their officers who were at hand on the great hill, rushed down and charging up the other, drove the Arabs off, recovering their post; a troop of cavalry at this time charged up the hill and, taking the Arabs in flank, completed the success. The rout was general and complete, the plain was soon cleared of the innumerable body that had just filled it, and this truly glorious day was decided in our favour with the loss of 373 killed and wounded—among these 14 officers, *more than a fourth*. The glorious example of the Cavalry gave a decided turn to the day. Mr. Jenkins—every Officer, and every Civilian behaved like Heroes—exposing their persons without bounds. The Rajah's Camp is in sight, and we act on the defensive till reinforcements arrive, when I think we shall make them pay for their perfidy. The Rajah wants to make it up." (*Mirror*.)

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EXTRACT FROM THE MILITARY CALENDAR, VOLUME II.  
PAGES 151—166.

The Nagpore Escort bore a distinguished share in the ~~Mahratta~~ war of 1817, and particularly at the Battle of ~~Sessin~~ ~~in~~ which Capt. Lloyd was four times wounded. The ~~same~~ ~~troop~~

immediately preceded and led to that memorable engagement and as follows :-

On the 23rd Nov. 1817, the Rajah made known to the Resident his intention of receiving, on the following day, a khelut, or honorary dress, which had been sent to him by the Peishwa, and requested he would honour the ceremony with his presence, or, if indisposed, depute some other person; he also expressed a wish that a salute should be fired in the British Cantonment on the occasion. As, however, the British Government was at this very time at war with the Peishwa, it was clear the representatives of that Government could not possibly accede to the Rajah's wishes; and, considering the friendship then existing between the Company and the State of Nagpore, it was equally plain the Rajah, in accepting a khelut from the Peishwa, would show a deference to him, which might prove highly offensive to the British Government: this view of the measure the Rajah was about to adopt was officially notified to him by Mr. Jenkins, the Resident at his Court.

On the 24th Nov. the disposition of the Rajah was decidedly hostile. In direct opposition to the advice of the Resident, he proceeded to follow the course of policy recommended by those of his ministers who were inimical to the English. He caused himself to be publicly invested with the honorary dress sent him by the Peishwa, Bajee Rao, and also accepted a commission from Poona, creating him Commander-in-Chief of the Mahratta armies: then, mounting his elephant, he addressed his principal sirdars, telling them his honour was now deposited in their hands, and that he placed his trust in them alone. Surrounded by his troops, he proceeded to the camp at Suckurdurra in great state; the zireeputka, or royal standard, was displayed; the army drawn up;

salutes fired from the artillery stations around the camp; and, in short, nothing was omitted which could add to the pomp of the ceremony.

On the morning of the 25th, all communication between the Residency and the city was prohibited; the Resident's hircarrahs were refused permission to carry a letter to the durbar; the markets were shut against the English troops and followers; and it seemed probable the difficulty of obtaining intelligence of what was going on in the Mahratta camp would render the precautions taken to prevent a sudden attack on the Residency of no avail; still it was judged best to delay taking any decisive measure as long as possible.

Towards noon a body of about 2,000 of the Rajah's horse left their camp at Bokur, five miles n. w. of the city, and approached the Residency. The cavalry, commanded by Gunpatrao subadar, got under arms, and reports were spread abroad that the Pindarries were in the neighbourhood and threatened Nagpore. The city now became a scene of consternation, confusion and alarm, not that the inhabitants believed that there was any danger from the Pindarries, but because the Rajah's design of attacking the British and driving them out of his dominions was publicly talked of and universally credited. The alarm had now spread to the market, frequented by the people of the residency, which soon became almost deserted, and indeed all ~~classes~~, both rich and poor, removed ~~their families and~~ property from the vicinity of Seetab'dee.

From all these circumstances, and perhaps many other considerations not publicly known, the Resident very justly apprehended an attack on the Residency. At half past 2 o'clock P. M. he sent orders to Lieut.-Col. Scott to march immediately from his



cantonments at Telincary, three miles off, and post himself on the Seetabuldee hills with the whole of the British force; the troops at the residency, under Captain Lloyd's command, got under arms at the same time to prevent the enemy seizing the position before the arrival of the troops from the cantonments: these amounted to about 400 men and consisted of the Nagpore Escort, two field pieces and about 200 men, commanded by Lieut. Bayley.

Between 3 and 4 o'clock, it was reported to the latter officer that a body of Arabs were marching to Seetabuldee. and he, apprehending an attack, took possession of the tombs on the east end of the large hill. At this period L.-Col. Scott was in full march with three troops of the 6th Reg. Bengal Cavalry, two 6-pounders, and two weak battalions of infantry, followed by the camp followers of the force: fortunately the enemy did not harass the line of march, but allowed the British to encamp on the two hills of Seetabuldee, in full sight of the Mahratta army. This bold movement, being quite unexpected, must have astonished the Rajah; he saw the British in quiet possession of the strongest ground in the vicinity of his capital before the day had closed.

Early in the morning of the 26th, the troops had their several stations allotted them for the defence of the hills, and an attempt was made to strengthen the small hill, though to little purpose. The enemy employed himself in drawing his numerous artillery around the hills, in which operation they were not molested, though, if the British had thought proper to commence hostilities, every gun might have fallen into their hands with ease, for they were not supported by troops. About sunset the whole of the enemy's preparations were finished, when the Rajah sent two of his ministers to Mr. Jenkins to represent his grievances, and whilst they were in close conference, the action began, accidentally, it is believed,

and not with the knowledge of the ministers deputed to the residency.

The British right rested on the large hill of Seetabuldee, the left upon the smaller one, four hundred yards distant, directly north, and connected with Seetabuldee by a curved ridge. Both hills are elevated about one hundred feet above the level of the surrounding country. Their summits have very different forms : Seetabuldee is flat, covered with mausoleums and tombs, and 280 yards in length from east to west, the breadth varying between 120 and 50 yards. The small hill is peaked, the top being only 100 feet long by 17 feet broad ; this hill slopes gradually to the north, south and west ; the eastern side at 30 yards from the summit is scraped away by the formation of a deep and extensive quarry. The slopes of Seetabuldee are likewise easy of ascent, excepting to the south, where it is abrupt but nevertheless practicable for infantry ; considerable portions of the eastern face are quarried at distances of from 80 to 100 yards from its brow. The lines of the Nagpore escort ran along the base of the small hill on the western side ; and to the northward and eastward beyond the quarry, it is embraced by the suburbs of the city. On the eastern side, the base of Seetabuldee hill is covered with huts : an extensive village stretches along the foot of it to the south, and the houses of the gentlemen of the residency occupy the bottom of the western face. The city of Nagpore lies on the east of these hills, with the Mahratta camp beyond it, extending from the east around to the south, and distant about three miles from the British position.

From this detail of the localities of the British position, it will be perceived that the small hill on the left was their weak side and that the force was much too small to take every advantage the ground offered.

The 1st Batt., 24th, with two 6-pounders, formed on the northern slope of the small hill: the line extended from east to west, with Telpooree, a village joined to the suburbs of the city, not more than 60 or 80 yards in front. The 1st Batt., 20th Regiment, and a company of the 24th drew up on Seetabuldee, facing the south and east, and 100 men of the Nagpore Escort, with one 6-pounder, occupied the western end of the same hill; the remaining gun was placed at the opposite extremity. Those men of the Nagpore Battalion who had arms, the remainder of the escort, and a small detachment of the 20th, were disposed of in the Resident's house, the houses belonging to the gentlemen of the embassy, and burying-ground: and the three troops of the 6th Bengal Cavalry went out into the fields nearest the enemy. The action began by a smart fire of musketry from the enemy's huts and quarries on the east side of Seetabuldee, accompanied by a brisk cannonade, and shortly afterwards they opened a destructive fire of musketry from the huts in front of the 24th on the left of the British position: the battle thus became general.

As it was not probable the point on which the escort ~~was posted~~ would be attacked, Capt. Lloyd took away a detachment of his men, and went to the eastern extremity of the hill and joined the troops defending it: here he witnessed considerable confusion at different times; the sepoys would not keep their ranks, but crowded together many deep; some were running for refuge amongst the tombs in the rear, the fire of the Arabs was incessant, and to complete the disorder, the 6-pounder limber blew up about half-past 9 o'clock, illuminating both hills and conveying destruction to everything within the sphere of the explosion: another gun was dragged to this point and brought to bear on the enemy, and a constant fire of musketry being kept up, they would not venture out of the huts and quarries.

Capt. Lloyd's party remained here till past midnight; they were but little exposed, from being retired just enough to see over the brow of the hill, and ordered to sit down.

The left of the position was all this time defended by the 1st Batt., 24th Reg., with particular gallantry: the Arabs, who occupied the huts in their front, fired from this cover, at one time, with decided effect, occasioning a great number of casualties; the sepoys returned it with equal determination, and being aided by the two 6-pounders, managed to set the place on fire not long after the action began: the enemy, however, again occupied the huts, and fired with as much spirit as before, but not with like effect, as Capt. Charlesworth, who assumed the command when Capt. Sadler fell, ordered the battalion to fall back a few paces and sit down. This movement was extremely judicious, it placed the swell of the small hill between him and the village, which screened his men very much; it was, nevertheless, deemed necessary to reinforce ~~the 24th with the Grenadier company of the 20th~~, under Lieut. Dunn, and by 1 o'clock A. M., this admirable corps had suffered so severely that it was determined to withdraw it to the right of the position.

About 10 o'clock P. M., a large body of the enemy's cavalry with guns, arrived from the Mahratta camp and took up positions to the north, south and west, forming the segment of a large circle\*; they did not, however, attempt to close with our cavalry, but confined their operations to a cannonade and skirmishing: at intervals they threw rockets, whose long luminous tracks, crossing the horizon in various directions, produced an effect highly picturesque.

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\* At this time the corps was surrounded by at least 10,000 cavalry, 6,000 infantry and 35 pieces of artillery, independent of the troops that remained in the enemy's camp with the Rajah. All communication with the surrounding country was cut off, the camp followers, including the

At midnight it was determined to withdraw the troops from the left ; they had sustained a heavy loss both in officers and men, were fatigued and unable to dislodge the Arabs from the strong cover they sought in. One hundred men of the Nagpore escort and 50 men of the 20th Regiment were therefore ordered to relieve them.

It took some time to collect and form this detachment, so that they did not reach the southern slope of the small hill before 1 or half-past 1 o'clock. They found two 6-pounders on the summit of the hill ; the battalion of the 24th on the northern slope, engaged with the enemy, and the Commanding Officer, Capt. Macdonald, who had succeeded to the command when Capt. Charlesworth was wounded, superintending the construction of a slight breast-work of bags of grain, but so much down the slope of the hill that, independently of other inconveniences, there was not a sufficient number (which circumstance Capt. Macdonald was not aware of) to form so extensive an enclosure, or time to complete it before daybreak ; the little which had been done was to be undone, as Capt. Lloyd had determined to confine the *enceinte* to the top of the hill and nothing more.

The huts occupied by the enemy were not more than 150 yards off, and they fired from them with great vivacity and good

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wives and children of the sepoys, and also the families of the European officers, in the Resident's house, were exposed to the enemy's shot ; the supplies were only sufficient for a few days, and even ammunition was far from being plentiful. Under these circumstances it was of the utmost importance to make known their situation to Lieut.-Col. Gahan advancing from Hoossinjabad with a battalion of sepoys and 3 troops of cavalry, and to Major Pitman's detachment in Berar ; the task was hazardous, but was undertaken by two of Capt. Lloyd's personal servants and a sepoy of the Nagpore Escort, who all passed through the enemy's horse unnoticed.

aim; but with Capt. Macdonald's assistance the work had made some progress by half-past 2 o'clock, when he marched to the right flank with the 24th, and detachments of the 20th, with one 6-pounder. The enemy, perceiving this movement, came out from the huts with shouts and every mark of exultation, and, extending their front under shelter of the fall of the ground between the British and the village, kept up a continued fire on the position of the latter, now confined to the single point.

A reserve, divided into three parties, consisting of 50 men of the 20th and a couple of sections of the escort, had already been posted in rear of the hill on the south side, which secured the sepoys and pioneers, who worked with uncommon coolness and great labour; for the bullocks with the bags of grain, aware of their danger, could not by any means be brought to the top of the hill, but threw down their loads at some distance from it: there were two or three exceptions that excited admiration.

By daybreak the summit of the hill was crowned with a breastwork (if it could be so termed), three feet and a half high, inclosing a space barely sufficient to contain 100 men: all were obliged to sit down close to the parapet, and, unfortunately, the breadth (17 feet) and not the length of the top of the hill, pointed to the enemy, consequently not more than ten men could have fired upon them in a direct line, if a six-pounder had not been in the way; as it was, the direct fire of the British was reduced almost to nothing.

A little before daybreak Cornet Smith brought up his troop to the rear of the hill at Capt. Lloyd's request, but being discovered as he approached, could do nothing. The Arabs ran into the huts and would not come out again until he had gone away, and although he only remained a short time, the

south side also, from whence they kept up a smart fire which was returned by the 1st battalion, 20th and 24th, with great animation; they did not, however, attempt to carry this hill, sword in hand, but confined their attack to small arms and a cannonade, which had little effect on account of the elevation and flat surface of the hill. The enemy, being now in possession of the key of the British position, took instant advantage of his good fortune. The field-piece he had taken he turned on Seetabuldee and fired with great effect. Lieut. Clarke and Assistant Surgeon Niven were both killed by the same shot: both had their heads carried off; and at this time Mr. Sotheby was mortally wounded by a cannon-ball. Three or four Arabs, more daring than the rest, planted their standards within 70 yards of the British, and the main body occupied the lines or cantonments of the Nagpore escort and the space between them and the small hill.

The whole of the enemy's cavalry elated at the success of the infantry, pressed forward from the westward towards Seetabuldee, when Capt. Fitzgerald,\* animated with that spirit which entitles a man to distinction, charged them with the cavalry, whilst Lieut. Hearsey, with half a troop, made a dash at two of their guns: both attacks succeeded; Lieut. Hearsey turned the captured guns upon the enemy's horse with effect, and, being joined by Captain Fitzgerald, they returned to the Residency, bringing with them the trophies of their victory.

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\* The well-timed charge of Captain Fitzgerald stands conspicuous amongst the many brilliant exploits achieved in the campaign. It was generally allowed to have given the turn to the tide of success on this day, and, consequently, to have mainly contributed to the salvation of our interests within the Nagpore dominions, to say nothing of the effect on public opinion that would have been felt throughout India, even to Nepaul, had Appa Sahib succeeded in cutting off this brigade. (*Prinsep's Narrative of Political and Military Transactions in India*, p. 259).

The infantry on Seetabuldee hill witnessed this brilliant exploit ; emulating the cavalry, they opened a galling fire upon the Arabs, which drove them into the cover afforded by the lines of the escort. At this moment the limber of their field-piece on the small hill blew up ; nothing could have been more fortunate for the British : the escort, with perhaps an equal number of men of the 24th and 20th Regiments, rushed forward to the attack. The space they had to pass over being 400 yards, the compact order they set out in could not long be preserved, and the mass was changed into an irregular column of small front. The Arabs kept their standards on the summit of the hill until the British were ascending it, and within a few paces of them : here Capt. Lloyd was shot through the right shoulder, and Lieut. Grant of the 24th was killed ; fortunately the former was not struck down, and the men being greatly animated, they passed rapidly over the breastwork and burning ammunition barrels, charging the enemy and resolved to terminate the battle by driving him out of the village from which he had annoyed them so much during the whole action. Capt. W. Stone of the 24th Regiment had formed the like resolution, for both at the same time passed the enemy's two brass field-pieces on the slope of the hill and entered the village together. The Arabs could not stand this vigorous attack ; they fled in all directions. In crossing a lane in the village, Capt. Lloyd was shot through the body : the sepoy continued to do their work handsomely, and in a short time drove their opponents out of the place at the point of the bayonet. The affair did not end here : Capt. Stone, with a small party of the 24th, turned back towards Seetabuldee and joining another party of sepoy, under Lieut. Ritchie of the 20th, who was accompanied by Surgeon J. Gordon, captured and spiked two heavy brass guns. Captain Lloyd was now exhausted, could exert himself no longer, and walked back to the right for the sepoy at



the same time dragging with them the two brass captured guns to a place of safety.

By these operations the small hill and village in its front were left nearly without troops: the Arabs, observing this, began to re-assemble and occupy the hills again, when Capt. Moxon, of the escort, who now commanded on this point, took his measures so well that they durst not venture out of cover; and before they had time to re-establish themselves firmly, Cornet Smith came up with a troop of cavalry, charged through the village, pistolled between twenty and thirty of the enemy, and forced them to abandon this stronghold altogether.

It was now noon. The Arabs completely beaten at all points, the cavalry retired to a respectable distance from the hills; the fire of their artillery slackened, and by half past 2 or 3 o'clock ceased entirely.

Thus terminated the Battle of Seetabuldee, which was perhaps one of the most important in its consequences, of any fought in India for many years.

By an oversight in the orders of the 29th Nov. 1817, issued by the Commanding Officer, the services of the Nagpore\*

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\* It is true they lost the small hill for a time, but then the artillery men, pioneers and a party of the 20th Regiment, with two small sections of the escort, composing the reserve, and perhaps a dozen more in the centre and rear of the work, quitted it before the great body of the escort. On the other hand the escort bore a very conspicuous part in re-taking not only the hill and two field-pieces, but the village in front, and in retaining this important post, under Captain Moxon, when threatened by the enemy: a considerable detachment of this corps was engaged on the large hill on the right from 7 P. M. of the 25th till midnight. It must not be forgotten also that the escort defended the key of the position, from about 2 o'clock A. M. till 10 of the 27th, and that a battalion and one 6-pounder more than they

Escort were omitted, and also in the report\* of the battle to Sir T. Hislop; and as the thanks of the Com.-in-Chief of the Army are founded upon the report and orders issued in the first

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had only performed the same duty before them, and that too in the dark, whilst they (the escort) laboured many hours under the double disadvantage of fighting in the day and with an enemy elated at having caused the first troops, who defended the point, to be withdrawn; the sight of 10,000 cavalry ready to take any advantage was an awful spectacle. The escort were besides cooped up in a small place with a slight breastwork, not cannon-proof, and from which they could not fire in a direct line.

\* The Report is as follows:—

### *Report.*

"Sir,—I had the honour to report for the information of His Excellency the Com.-in-Chief, on the 26th instant, that the troops under my command had left their Cantonments the day before at the requisition of the Resident. They took post on the hill of Seetabuldee which overlooks the Residency and the city of Nagpore, at the same time taking possession with the 1st Batt., 24th Reg. N. I., of a hill about 300 yards on the left of this position and to retain which was of the utmost consequence to our retaining possession of Seetabuldee. Having made all the arrangements that I thought necessary during the 26th, at 6 P. M. of that day, when posting sentries accompanied by Capt. Bayley on the face of the hill, and in front of the Arab village at the foot of the hill, and into which we had during the day observed large bodies of Arabs with five guns to be sent to reinforce a party of Rajah's infantry who had been previously posted there, the Arabs in the village opened a fire on the small party although previously informed that it was merely a matter of military precaution customary with us and to which they had assented, and that it was not my intention to molest them. Seeing their determination to commence hostilities and the small party with me having shown the utmost forbearance and until this time not having fired a shot, I directed them to fire a volley and retreated to the top of the hill, under the fire of all the troops posted in the village. The action immediately commenced on both sides and continued incessantly until 12 o'clock the following day, when it ceased. Having, in consequence of their great loss and fatigues, found it necessary to withdraw the 1st Batt., 24th Reg., together with a party of the 1st Batt., 20th Regt., by whom they had been reinforced during the



authorities, and produced a letter from Lieut.-Col. Conway\* to the British resident at the Court of Berar, dated the 20th Feb. 1818, which conveys the thanks of His Excellency the Com.-in-Chief to the Nagpore escort. This letter, however, came late, was not published to the army, and although gratifying to the

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which are feebly expressed in my orders issued on the occasion and of which I inclose a copy, as also copy of a letter from Mr. Jenkins, resident, who was present during the whole of the action, and whose animating conduct tended in a very considerable degree to excite the troops to their duty. I have to deplore the death of Mr. Sotheby, his First Assistant, a gallant gentleman, who had also been present from the first, and, exposing himself in every situation, was severely wounded towards the close of the action and died in the course of the day.

I shall by to-morrow's post forward regular returns of killed and wounded, which, I am sorry to say, are considerable, amounting to 14 officers and 333 killed and wounded of all other ranks.

H. S. SCOTT, LIEUT.-COL.,  
*Commanding at Nagpore.*

*Camp Nagpur, 30th November 1817.*

P. S.—From the best information I can obtain, and my observations, the enemy opened upwards of 35 guns upon us. The number of their cavalry is said to amount to 12,000 and their infantry to 8,000; 3,500 of which are Arabs, from whom we met our principal loss.

RICHARD TAYLOR,  
*Brigade-Major.*

\* *Extract of (sic) a letter from Lieut.-Col. Conway, Adjutant-General of the Army, to Mr. Jenkins, dated Feb. 20, 1818.*

I am further directed by His Excellency the Com.-in-Chief to express the conviction he feels, that the Nagpore escort, as well as the Rajah's regular battalion, participated most fully in the honour and glories of the memorable 26th and 27th Nov.; and His Excellency requests that you will cause these his sentiments to be expressed to them, with an assurance that as they merited so they have his high approbation and commendation,

escort, could not fix the eye of the public on the corps in the distinguished light it merited.\*

In 1820 the Nagpore escort was disbanded, but the government permitted Capt. Lloyd to remain attached to the embassy.

The nature and importance of the military services performed by this escort are shown by the following letter from the British Resident (Mr. Jenkins) † at the Court of Berar to Captain Lloyd:—

"Sir,—On the occasion of the approaching departure of the Nagpore escort to Hoossinjabad, to be disbanded there, agreeably to the orders of government, I cannot withhold the expression of my regret at parting with a body of men who have for so long a period been attached to me as a personal guard, and who from the ties of long acquaintance and habit, as well as from the uniform satisfaction which I have derived from their good conduct and discipline as soldiers, have established so many claims on my regard,

\*The casualties of the gallant 1st Batt., 24th Reg., amounted to 149 killed and wounded; but of the Nagpore escort, consisting of only 124 individuals, its loss was 43 killed and wounded, which is greater in proportion to the strength of each corps.

† "At Nagpur, as at Poona, an attack was suddenly made on the British residency, while the attention of the Gov.-Gen. was supposed to be exclusively occupied by the Pindarry War. A similar resistance was successfully opposed to this attack by the resident, Mr. Jenkins, who affords another instance of the happy union of military qualifications with diplomatic skill, and whose courage and constancy had been heretofore displayed under very trying circumstances, when, after the former Mahratta War, he held the office of resident at the Court of Scindia. The few troops stationed at Nagpore, under Lieut.-Col. Scott, made a gallant stand against the superior numbers of the enemy, a superiority sufficient to surround and overpower the British force, even if the attack had been foreseen. Instances of individual heroism displayed on this occasion are deservedly recorded in our military annals." *The President (Mr. Canning) of the Board of Control's Speech in the House of Commons. 14th March 1819.*

both in a public and private point of view. It has not, indeed, been the lot of the Nagpore escort only to do the duties commonly expected from the body-guard of a public minister at a foreign court. From the disturbed state of the country, for a period of ten years out of the fifteen which have elapsed since their arrival at Nagpur, there has been constant occasion for their alertness and steadiness as a military body, and not unfrequently for the more harassing duties which are usually considered as peculiarly the lot of troops of the line in time of war. At all times I have viewed the cheerfulness with which they have submitted to these fatiguing duties, and the spirit and bravery which they have shown when occasionally called to more active service, with unqualified approbation. If such have been their merits during so long a period previous to the late war, no terms can express my high sense of their bravery and devotedness in the memorable battle of Seeta-buldee. No praise, indeed, which I could offer to them, or to yourself, whose distinguished gallantry on that occasion set before them so noble an example, would be valuable after the eulogium which has been pronounced by the highest military authorities on the occasion. I shall, therefore, only add my warmest wishes for the future prosperity and reputation of those individuals of the Nagpore escort who may embrace a more extensive line of service, as well as for the ease and happiness of those who may retire; and in requesting you to communicate the general sentiments and good wishes contained in this letter to the Corps, I must beg to express my high satisfaction with your conduct throughout the long period during which you have commanded it; and further to offer my thanks to Lieut. Smith, for the favour of his services since the removal of Captain Moxon.

(Signed)

R. JENKINS,

*Resident.*

*Nagpore, the 17th August 1820.*

EXTRACT FROM THE MILITARY CALENDAR, VOLUME III,  
PAGES 454—459.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY, JULY 14, 1818.

INDIA BOARD, JULY 13, 1818.

*Extract from a despatch from Lieut. - General Sir Thomas Hislop to the Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief, dated Head-quarters of the Army of the Deccan, Camp at Pan Behar, seven miles North of Oogain, 19th December 1817.*

It is now with additional pleasure that I have to lay before your Lordship the detailed accounts of a most brilliant action at Nagpore, in which the British interests at that capital have been gloriously maintained by the undaunted courage and perseverance of a small detachment of the 5th Division of the army, headed by Lieut.-Col. H. S. Scott, of the Madras establishment.

The general order published to the army on this most gratifying occasion will show to your Lordship the sense I entertain of the admirable conduct of the troops engaged. Whether, indeed, I regard the vast superiority of the enemy's numbers and artillery, or the length of time during which our brave soldiers had fought, until they repulsed the army of Nagpore, I feel assured that your Lordship will consider the actions of the 26th and 27th November as worthy of being recorded in the brightest page of our Indian Annals, and the gallant troops who achieved the exploit entitled to the warmest gratitude and admiration of their government. It were endless on such an occasion to enumerate the names of those officers whose situations enabled them particularly to distinguish themselves. The success which attended the efforts of his soldiers speaks more in proof of the intrepidity and conduct of their commander, Lieut.-Col. Scott, than any expression

of praise, however unqualified, can convey; and the spirited exertions of Major Mackenzie, of the 1st Battalion, 20th Regiment of Madras Native Infantry, have also been such as to deserve and to receive my best thanks and applause. I can however neither deny myself the satisfaction, nor Capt. Fitzgerald the justice, of bringing to your Lordship's particular notice the undaunted and judicious charge made by three troops of the 6th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry, led on by that officer, against an immense body of the enemy's horse, which was defeated, and their guns turned against them, at a moment the most critical to the result of the day.

Your Lordship will perceive by the returns of killed and wounded that our loss has been severe; and I have to lament the fate of several brave officers who have fallen with honour in the cause of their country.

I cannot, in this place, but state to your Lordship my decided opinion that there never has been an instance in which not only the courage but the allegiance of the native troops have been put to a severer test, and been displayed in a more brilliant result than on the present occasion. It required, indeed, no common exercise of both qualities, to enable these intrepid men to maintain their position, at a time when they saw their wives and children exposed and suffering under the same fire which was thinning their own ranks: such a trial was greater than falls in general to the lot of soldiers, and it has been gloriously met and supported at Nagpore.

On a full consideration of this memorable engagement, I feel that I should be doing less than my duty, were I to refrain from expressing a hope that the 1st Battalion of the 20th and 24th Regiments of Madras Infantry may receive some signal and



lasting memorial of their gallant deeds, from the government they have served so well: the claim of the detachment of Bengal cavalry to a similar honour will not, I am confident, escape your Lordship's attention.

*Head-quarters of the Army of the Deccan, Camp at Gunny,  
14th December 1817.*

The Commander-in-Chief has now the pleasing duty of publishing to the army a further instance of the admirable conduct of a detachment of the distinguished army he has the honour to command.

Official reports have reached His Excellency from Lieut.-Col. H. S. Scott, Commanding the Detachment of the 5th Division at Nagpore, of a most brilliant and decisive action which took place at that capital, between the British troops and the whole of those belonging to His Highness the Rajah of Berar, on the 26th and 27th ultimo.

The detachment under Lieut.-Col. Scott's command, previous to the treacherous attack made upon it by a Chief with whom we were on terms of friendly alliance, did not exceed the total amount of 1,350 rank and file, and with this small and gallant band, an action of 18 hours in continuance was maintained with a degree of perseverance, determined courage and unconquerable bravery which has never on any occasion been surpassed.

It is a peculiarly gratifying part of the Commander-in-Chief's duty to offer his most grateful tribute of unqualified praise and admiration to Lieut.-Col. Scott and the officers and men of his detachment for their excellent conduct upon this memorable occasion, and His Excellency may with truth assert that there never

has occurred an occasion where praise has been better earned or more justly merited than this.

The gallant perseverance and devoted courage of the small brigade of infantry, consisting of the 1st Battalion of the 20th and 24th Regiments, Madras Native Infantry (weakened by a large proportion of sick in hospital), place those corps in the enviable possession of the applause of their superiors and the admiration of their brother soldiers.

The pressure of the attack was sustained by the 1st Battalion, 24th Native Infantry, and His Excellency feels no common pride and satisfaction in declaring his most unqualified praise of its gallantry, enterprise and steadiness.

The three troops of the 6th Regiment, Bengal Cavalry, under Captain Fitzgerald, reinforced by a small detail of the Madras body-guard, have established a claim to the highest commendation. The judgment and decision displayed by Capt. Fitzgerald, in seizing the happy moment for attack, will ever speak the high eulogium on that officer's professional skill and ability; and the gallantry and perseverance of this small but formidable body place its merits and services in the most distinguished rank, nor is it too much to add that the arduous contest which had been supported for eighteen hours by the persevering gallantry of the Infantry was decided by the discipline and enterprise of this gallant detachment led on by Captain Fitzgerald.

The conduct of the small detachment of the Madras Artillery and Pioneers has been eminently conspicuous, and has added another instance of courage and discipline to the well-established reputation of the corps to which they belong.



their country, and the glory of her arms; and that their memory will be handed down to posterity with honour and grateful respect.

The following are the names of the officers who have fallen:— Captain Sadler, commanding 1st Batt., 25th Reg. Madras N. I., Lieut. and Adjutant Grant, 1st Batt., 24th Reg. Madras N. I.; Lieut. Clarke, 1st Batt., 20th Reg. Madras N. I.; Assistant Surgeon Niven, Unattached. The sufferings of the families of the Native corps during the action were unavoidably great, and many, it is deeply feared, have perished from their exposed situation and the inveterate cruelty of the enemy. The Com.-in-Chief deeply deplores this melancholy event and assures the Native army that the widows and orphans left destitute shall have his immediate attention and consideration, and that he will recommend them in the strongest terms to the generous protection of the Government, which is ever watchful to reward merit and relieve the wants and distresses of its faithful soldiers. Lieutenant-Colonel Scott will be pleased immediately to form a committee of experienced officers to ascertain the persons who have a claim to pensions, &c., and will lose no time in transmitting the proceedings to the Adjutant-General of the Army.

(Signed) T. H. S. CONWAY,

*Adjutant-General of the Army.*

*General Orders by His Excellency the Governor-General.*

The Governor-General experiences the most lively satisfaction in announcing the repulse and entire defeat, by the British troops at Nagpur, of an immensely superior force of the Rajah of Nagpur by which they were attacked without any previous declaration of hostilities, or the slightest act of aggression on the part of our government or troops.

The conduct of the Rajah having afforded decided indications of a hostile design, the brigade of British troops, consisting of two weak battalions, first 20th and the first 24th of Madras N. I., and three troops of the 6th reg. of Native Cavalry, the whole amounting to not more than 1,200 fighting men, took post at the residency on the 25th November, and, during that and the following day, occupied themselves in strengthening their position. On the evening of the 26th, they were attacked by the enemy, with a force computed at upwards of 20,000 men, who assailed them at all points with cavalry, infantry and artillery. The action lasted eighteen hours, and the repeated charges of the enemy were sustained with the greatest gallantry and perseverance by our troops, who succeeded, after a most desperate contest, in completely repulsing and defeating the enemy with great loss, capturing eight of their guns. Capt. Fitzgerald, of the 6th Bengal Native Cavalry, is reported as having particularly distinguished himself in a most spirited charge against the enemy's cavalry, in which he captured four of their guns, and immediately turned them against the enemy with great and decisive effect. At this period the enemy appeared to be thrown into confusion by the blowing up of a tumbril. The advantageous moment was nobly seized; our troops charged and broke the enemy, and pursued their success until the fortune of the day was completely decided in their favour. Our loss was considerable, but the amount has not been exactly ascertained. After the action the Rajah sent in vakeels to sue for a suspension of hostilities, but the Resident, Mr. Jenkins, refused to communicate with him until all the troops were withdrawn from the vicinity of the residency, which was accordingly done. Reinforcements are on their march to Nagpur from several quarters, and a considerable British force will shortly be assembled there.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is requested to direct a Royal salute to be fired from the Artillery Park.

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General.

(Signed) J. ADAMS,  
*Sec. to the Gov.-Gen.*

JAS. NICOL,  
*Adj.-Gen. of the Army.*

*To—Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, &c.*

Sir,—After an action so arduous and glorious in its termination to the British name, as that of the 26th and 27th inst., I should neither be doing justice to my own feelings nor to the situation I hold, were I not to express to you the high admiration with which I witnessed the events of those memorable days.

With such a handful of men opposed to the whole military power of the State of Nagpore, nothing but the most devoted courage and conduct on the part both of officers and men could have secured the happy result which has attended their efforts. In the midst of so much to admire, and such universal claims to praise, it is quite unnecessary for me to say more than to offer to yourself and the whole of the officers and men, individually and collectively, in the name of the Governor-General, my sincerest thanks; but I cannot also help adding my unfeigned admiration of the conduct of the three troops of the 6th Bengal Cavalry, under Capt. Fitzgerald, in the charge which they made on so superior a body of cavalry, supported by infantry and guns, the success of which, at the critical moment in which it happened, may be said to have decided the fate of the battle.

NAGPORE:

(Signed) R. JENKINS,

*The 30th November 1817.*

*Resident.*

PRESENT STATE OF THE TROOPS AT NAGPUR ON THE 26TH  
NOVEMBER 1817.

*These are all Effectives. All sick, unarmed recruits, and recruit boys have been rigidly excluded.*

Corps.	Euro- pean Officers.	Native Officers.	Other ranks.	Recruits with arms.	Total.	
6th Bengal Native Cavalry (3 troops)	...	5	9	286	...	300
Madras Body Guard (Detachment)	...	...	1	17	...	18
Madras Foot Artillery	...	1	2	53	...	56
1st Battn., 20th Madras N. I.	...	12	11	429	80	532
1st " 24th " "	...	9	13	510	80	612
Resident's Escort	...	3	3	173	...	179
Nagpur Battalion	...	4	11	13	70	98
Total	..	34	50	1,481	230	1,795

RETURN OF CASUALTIES IN THE BATTLE OF SITABALDI, 26TH AND 27TH  
NOVEMBER 1817.

Corps.	Killed.	Wound- ed.	Miss- ing.	Total.	Remarks.	
6th Bengal Native Cavalry (3 troops)	...	23	24	...	47	
Madras Body Guard (Detachment)	...	...	...	...	The 6th Batta- lion Native Ca- valry also lost 45 horses killed, wounded and missing.	
Madras Foot Artillery	...	5	16	...		21
1st Battn., 20th Madras N. I.	...	16	49	...		65
1st „ 24th „	...	59	102	...		161
Resident's Escort	...	10	33	4		47
Nagpur Battalion	...	8	15	...		23
Unattached	...	1	...	...		...
Total	...	122	239	4		365

EXTRACT FROM THE REGIMENTAL RECORDS OF THE  
ROYAL SCOTS (LOTHIAN REGIMENT).

BATTLE OF NAGPUR, DECEMBER 1817.

" *Services.* — In consequence, however, of the repulse of part of our troops at Nagpur, General Doveton's Division proceeded by forced marches to that place. His head-quarters were still at Jaffierabad; on the 29th he marched on Ellichpur and ordered the Royals to join, which they did at Oomrouttee on the 7th December and on the following day were at Sheourgaoon; on the 12th arrived at Nagpur\* and occupied a position in rear of the Residency and the Nagah River; on the 13th the rear of the division under Lieutenant-Colonel MacKellar rejoined its head-quarters.

The excessive fatigue which the troops had endured on their march rendered necessary some days' rest previous to any arduous undertaking.

Early on the 15th the troops got into motion and assumed a position on the right of the Residency and opposite to the enemy, whose most advanced post was distant about a mile and a half.

The Royals at this time was the only European force attached to this (the Second) Division of the Deccan Army.

The infantry was divided into three brigades:—The first commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Norman McLeod, headed by five companies of the Royals; the second by Lieutenant-Colonel N. McKellar, headed by one company of the Royals; the third by Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, also headed by one company of the Royals.

At 9 A. M. the action commenced by the storm of the arsenal, which with a battery of 14 guns was carried by the left brigade.

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\* Two-hundred and thirty miles in twelve days."



The brigades under Lieutenant-Colonels McLeod and McKellar were ordered to charge the enemy's right battery, and executed their order with gallantry and success, advancing afterwards against the enemy's right which retired before them. It was now half past one; the enemy had been driven from all their positions. They left their camp standing and forty elephants and forty-one guns in battery.

Sixty-four guns were taken this day.

The force encamped on the Nagah River, fronting it and the city of Nagpur.

The regiment lost 2 sergeants and 36 rank and file, killed and wounded.

A body of 6,000 Arabs having taken post in the city, it became necessary to dislodge them, and the siege of the place was undertaken.

On the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> December, a breach being considered practicable, a party led by one company of the Royals under Lieutenant Bell stormed the place. The attack failed, as the Pioneers, who carried the material for forming a lodgment, got into confusion.

The Arabs soon collected in great bodies and obliged the column, after they were at the top of the breach, for some time, to retire with considerable loss. Lieutenant Bell was killed in the breach.

The company employed had been on duty for twenty-four hours, exposed, during the whole of a cold night in wet trenches, to a heavy rain, and had undergone much fatigue.

Their want of success was nobly redeemed by the gallantry of Lieutenant Bell, which called forth from his enemies the highest

encomiums, and to which they paid the only homage in their power, that of sending a flag of truce, that his remains left in the inside of the breach might be carried away.

The company lost its officer, 2 sergeants, 5 corporals and 54 privates, killed and wounded.

*General Orders dated Head-quarters, Camp Oojain, the 27th January 1818.*

Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Hislop is pleased to publish the following extract of a communication from Brigadier-General Doveton :—

“ During the operations in the fields of the 2nd Division of the Army of the Deccan under my command, the conduct of the 2nd Battalion of His Majesty's Royal Scots, under the immediate command of Lieutenant-Colonel Fraser, has been invariably such as to entitle that valuable corps to my highest approbation and applause, and more particularly in the action with the enemy's army at this place, on the 16th ultimo; their gallantry, steadiness and good conduct were most exemplary.”

In thus recording the honourable share borne by the 2nd Battalion, Royal Scots, at the contest at Nagpur, during which this corps suffered considerably and was deprived of a promising officer (Lieutenant Bell, killed in the assault of the city on the 24th ultimo), Sir Thomas Hislop feels it a pleasing duty to assure the officers and men that His Excellency fully appreciates the highly creditable testimony rendered to their merits by the distinguished Officer Commanding the Division in which they serve.

*By order of Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Hislop, Bart.*

E. I. MACGREGOR-MURRAY, LIEUT.-COL.,  
*Depy. Adjutant-Genl., His Majesty's Forces.*

Though the attack of the 24th had failed in its immediate object, the determination it evinced had made a serious impression on the garrison, and on the following day they offered to evacuate the city, which they did on the 30th."

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GENERAL DOVETON'S ORDERS FOR THE 16TH DECEMBER,  
REPRINTED FROM A DOCUMENT FOUND IN THE  
NAGPUR RESIDENCY.

"ORDERS FOR BRIGADIERS RESPECTING THE ATTACK OF THE ENEMY.

ORDERS.

*"Camp, Monday, 15th December 1817.*

The troops for the attack of the enemy's camp and positions will parade at 4 o'clock to-morrow morning in open column of troops and companies, right in front, and from the right as follows:—

1ST LINE.

Under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Gahan.	{	Two Brigades of Horse Artillery and
		Gallopers of the
		6th Bengal Cavalry.
		6th Regiment Bengal Cavalry.
Under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Macleod.	{	6th do. Coast do.
		1st Battalion, 12th Regiment or Wala-
		jabad Light Infantry.
		1st Battalion, 22nd Bengal Regiment
	{	Native Infantry.
		6 Companies His Majesty's Royal
	{	Scots.

Under the command  
of Lieutenant-Colonel  
Mackeller.

{ 1 Company His Majesty's Royal Scots.  
2nd Battalion, 24th Regiment Native  
Infantry.  
1 Brigade of Horse Artillery.

Under the command  
of Lieutenant-Colonel  
Scott.

{ 1 Company His Majesty's Royal Scots.  
1st Battalion, 11th Regiment Native  
Infantry.  
Corps of Sappers and Miners.  
4 six-pounders.  
40 European Artillery with a proportion  
of Lascars.

Major Goreham will command this  
battery until his services may be required  
on the hill.

Under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart. { Flank Companies 1st Battalion, 2nd Regiment Native Infantry.  
2nd Battalion, 13th Regiment Native Infantry.

Under the command of Major Pitman. { Major Fraser's Battalion, H. H. Nizam's Infantry.  
4 six-pounders, H. H. Nizam's Artillery.

{ Flank Companies of the 1st Battalion, 20th Regiment.

{ Flank Companies of the 1st Battalion 24th Regiment.

On the troops arriving on the intended alignment, the whole will be halted and wheeled to the left into line, covered by the fire of the several Batteries as requisite.

The line will then be ordered to advance, and the attack will commence from the left by Colonel Scott's reserve flank companies driving the enemy from the Emaum Barree. The Corps of Sappers and Miners, the company of Her Majesty's Royal Scots and the 1st Battalion, 11th Regiment, with the battery of 4 six-pounders under Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, are then immediately to advance and will attack on their left flank, and take possession of the enemy's guns posted in front of the Emaum Barree, while a portion of the troops in that post might co-operate by making a dash for their right. This attack is to be supported by the reserve under Major Pitman with 300 of Captain Pedlar's Reformed Horse in his rear; and Colonel Scott, after carrying the Emaum Barree and the enemy's guns, will leave the whole or such part of his flank companies in the former as he may judge proper, with 2 six-pounders.

When the enemy's guns in front of that post have been taken possession of they will be manned by the spare artillery men and are to be turned upon the avenue in front and towards the town.

These points having been carried, Colonel Scott will remain there in position, and act as circumstances may require, keeping the party of Reformed Horse in the plain, to scour it of any of the enemy's troops which may subsequently appear. At the same time Lieutenant-Colonel Mackellar with the brigade of Horse Artillery, the company of the Royal Scots, and 2nd of the 24th Native Infantry will also advance, and clearing the plain of a small party of the enemy which will be in front of his left, will proceed to carry the post in his front, with the small pagoda in the tope, by making his attack on it, with his left clear of the tope, and he will be supported, if requisite, by a detachment from the right division

Having gained possession of it the Lieutenant-Colonel will establish his Division there, and likewise open a fire upon the avenue leading towards the town; always keeping in view that the Division under Lieutenant-Colonel Scott is upon his left, and regulating the fire of his artillery so as not to interfere with that Division.

When those positions have been carried, they will subsequently act for their mutual support under the orders of Lieutenant-Colonel Scott.

The troops composing Lieutenant-Colonel Mackellar's Division and the Cavalry Brigade, etc., will advance in line at the same time to attack the enemy's left camp on the edge of the plain, which being effected, it will proceed on the same line to disperse any other party it may meet.

This Division will be supported by the Reserve Battery under Lieutenant-Colonel Crosdil, and the flank companies of the 1st of the 2nd with the 2nd Battalion 13th under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart.

The remainder of the Reformed Horse under Captain Pedlar will advance on the rear of Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart's Reserve Line.

The Horse Artillery and Cavalry Brigade having co-operated with this attack on the enemy's extreme left will advance briskly to the attack of such other part of the enemy's troops that may be posted on the plain and which they will destroy.

The Cavalry in this and their subsequent attacks must preserve their order, and not give way to the order of pursuit, until the enemy are *completely defeated*!! Even then, the Reserve of Cavalry and the Horse Artillery and Gallopers must continue to advance in regular order, as a support to their advance line.

When the enemy shall have been completely driven from the plain, and his several posts in the possession of our troops, the line will then be ordered to take up their ground on that plain, and fronting towards the city.

The posts on the hill of Seetabuldee will be occupied by the Battalion Companies of the 1st of the 20th and 1st of the 24th with Major Elliott's Battalion of the Nizam's troops, the whole under the command of Major Mackenzie. From this position 5 companies will subsequently be detached, and placed under the orders of Major Goreham of the Artillery, for the purpose of occupying and defending a battery of 3 howitzers and 2 six-pounders which will be erected by Captain Davies on the right bank of the large tank, for the purpose of

bombarding the town, and to keep up a fire upon any parties of the enemy that may appear below the bund. This post being of the utmost importance, Major Mackenzie will bestow his particular attention on it, and if requisite, by the fire of his batteries on the hill, prevent the enemy from taking it in reverse should they make such a demonstration.

Major Weldon will carry with him such a proportion of musket and pistol ammunition from the magazine as he may judge requisite, and which will remain in rear of the Reserve Battery under Lieutenant-Colonel Crosdil.

A party of pioneers, with scaling ladders, must accompany the attacks under Lieutenant-Colonels Scott and Mackellar, in the event of those officers meeting with any impediments which cannot at present be foreseen. The spare ammunition which will be issued to the Corps must be kept immediately in rear of them; it will be carried on bullocks and be placed under charge of a careful Native Officer, with a small party to keep them up. The doolies and puckallies will be in rear of the several reserves.

Commanding Officers of Corps and Brigades must inspect their troops, at half past 4 o'clock this evening, and see that their muskets are in good order and well flinted, to examine the ammunition in the pouches of the men (which are to be completed) and generally everything else connected with their efficiency; each man must be provided with a spare flint, and if they could carry a bundle of spare cartridges without being liable to accident it would be as well.

The Deputy Quarter Master-General will instruct the Deputy Baggage Master to move the whole of the baggage of the force at 4 o'clock in the evening, and collect it on this side of, and under



the protection of, our positions on the Seetabuldee hill and none of any description must attempt to accompany the troops under pain of any such persons being hung if discovered. This part of the order does not of course include officers' horse-keepers, their led horses and chain boys from attending them, as well as a proportion of the horse-keepers from the Horse Artillery and Regiments of Cavalry. The troops must carry with them one ready dressed meal (but no knapsacks), and as soon as circumstances will admit of it, every thing necessary for their comfort will be ordered up from the baggage. Commanding Officers of Corps are required to be very particular in explaining this part of the orders to their men.

Brigadiers of Cavalry, Infantry and Artillery will be so good as to report personally to the Brigadier-General, at sun-set this evening, the efficiency of the several Corps composing their Brigades.

As the column moves along, every Corps must have an officer in its rear to see that his Corps does not out-march the one which follows it, and when any word of command is given from the rear it must be immediately passed on, and conformed to by the Corps in front.

Should any circumstances, not foreseen by the Brigadier-General, occur subsequent to the possession of the enemy's guns and post in the tope, Lieutenant-Colonels Scott and Mackellar will of course exercise their own judgment till they are in full communication with each other, when, as before directed, Lieutenant-Colonel Scott will be in command of all those positions."

*Copy of pencil note on back of above.*

MY DEAR JENKINS,

The within is what will explain to you all my plans in case of events requiring their execution.

Yours most faithfully,  
J. DOVETON.

R. JENKINS, ESQ.,  
&c., &c.,

*Residency.*

P.S.—Excuse this soldierly manner of sending it to you."

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LETTER FROM BRIGADIER-GENERAL DOVETON, TO THE  
ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF THE ARMY OF THE DECCAN,  
DATED CAMP NEAR NAGPORE, 19TH DECEMBER 1817.

*(Papers respecting the Pindarry and Mahratta Wars, page 148.)*

I had the honour of reporting, for His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's information (through the Quarter-Master General of the Army), my arrival at this place with a part of the force highly equipped, on the morning of the 12th, and my expectation of being joined by the remainder on the following day.

These troops did join me on the evening of the 13th, and I determined to allow them sufficient time to recover their fatigues after so long a march, previous to the Resident making known to the Rajah the terms which it was proposed to grant him, in order that I might have it in my power to attack his troops immediately in the event of his not agreeing to them. I accordingly, on the afternoon of the 13th, ordered the whole of the stores and baggage of the force to proceed and take post under the Seetabuldy Hill, where they would be protected by the first battalion Twentieth

first battalion Twenty-fourth Regiment, and a battalion of His Highness the Nizam's infantry. I having placed the troops in the order I intended they should attack, the whole slept upon their arms to be in readiness to commence hostilities at half-past four o'clock the following morning, previous to which time the Rajah's determination would be known. Early in the morning I received information from the Resident that His Highness had agreed to the terms proposed, and was hourly expected at the Residency. The time fixed however elapsed, and the Resident was told that the troops could not well be further delayed in their movements should the Rajah not soon make his appearance; with his approval therefore I shortly after moved down. I took up the position from which I intended the troops should commence the attack. Soon after my reaching it, I was informed of the Rajah's arrival at the Residency, of his having given orders to put in my possession the whole of his artillery by twelve o'clock, and that the agent from him would arrive in my camp for that purpose. I accordingly waited the arrival of the agent, and, accompanied by him, proceeded with the whole of my force in battalion columns of divisions, followed by the different reserves in line.

On my approach to the first battery it was drawn out in line ready to oppose us; but having come rather unexpectedly upon it, the enemy quitted their guns and retired. Having taken possession of these, and left the division under Lieutenant-Colonel Scott in charge of them, I continued my advance in the same order, when, shortly after, a heavy fire was opened on us by a large body of troops posted in the Sucker Durry gardens, which was followed by a general discharge from the whole of their batteries. The infantry consisted of the divisions under Lieutenant-Colonels M'Leod and Mackellor, supported by a battery and a reserve of infantry under

Lieutenant-Colonel Crosdile, and a reserve of infantry under Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart continued their advance until the ground could admit of a formation in line, when the enemy's batteries in the front were carried in a most gallant manner at the point of the bayonet.

The horse artillery under Lieutenant Poggenpohl, and cavalry in parallel regimental columns of divisions under Lieutenant-Colonel Gohan, supported by their reserve of gallopers and cavalry under Captain Smith, were fired upon at the same time, and having made a detour round a tank immediately in front of the Sucker Durry gardens, charged and carried instantly the batteries opposed to them in a most dashing style, driving at the same time before them an immense mass of the enemy's cavalry, which they routed and pursued as long as there was a chance of doing them any mischief.

A few of the enemy's guns, which had been charged by the cavalry, but which had re-opened their fire upon the latter, advancing in pursuit of that of the enemy, were charged and carried again in a very spirited manner by five companies from the reserve, under Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart, by the artillery of reserve, and a party of reformed horse, under Captain Pedlar, who distinguished themselves much on the occasion; and by half past one o'clock the whole of the enemy's guns and camp equipage were in our possession, together with upwards of forty elephants.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will be gratified to find, by the accompanying list of killed and wounded, that our loss has not been so considerable as might have been expected from the great superiority of the enemy's cannon; the wounds, however, I regret to say, are generally severe, being chiefly from cannon-shot.

It gives me much satisfaction to assure His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that the whole of the troops, who had the good fortune of being engaged on this occasion, behaved in the most gallant manner; and I am happy, after bearing this general testimony to the merits of the officers and men of the division under my command, to mention more particularly, for His Excellency's information, those of Lieutenant-Colonels Gohan, M'Leod, Scott, Mackellor, and Crosdile, commanding brigades of cavalry, infantry, and artillery, and of Major Munk and Captain Western, commanding corps of cavalry, and of Lieutenant-Colonels Stewart and Fraser, Majors Pereira, Pollock, M'Dowal, Wildon, Macbrian and Garner, commanding corps of infantry and artillery. I must also bring to His Excellency's favourable notice the merits of Lieutenant Poggenpohl, in command of the horse artillery, and of Lieutenant Hunter, of that corps, the latter of whom, having been attached to the column where I myself was, afforded me an opportunity of witnessing personally his uncommon exertions; to Major M'Leod and the officers of the general staff, and to Captains Morgan and Edmonds, my personal staff, I am quite at a loss to express how much I feel myself indebted; nor must I omit to mention the uncommon zeal and activity of Lieutenant Davis, senior Engineer in the field, during the entire movements; I am likewise much indebted to Captains Lucas, Grant and Nixon, and to Lieutenants Davidson, Fenwick and Sheriff, who volunteered their services on this occasion; of Major Addison's valuable service, I was unfortunately deprived by severe indisposition.

Before I conclude this despatch I beg leave to mention, for His Excellency's further information, that the Resident having previously requested that his brother, Major Jenkins, commanding

the infantry of the Rajah's contingent, might attend me as an extra Aide-de-camp on this occasion, it becomes a pleasing part of my duty to express how much I was indebted to that officer for his uncommon exertions, nor can I pass over in silence the merits of Lieutenant Bayley, attached to the Nagpore Contingent, who, though suffering under a severe wound received in the attack of the 26th, volunteered his services, and from his local knowledge, was of great use to me.

His Highness the Nizam's troops, under the command of Major Pitman, having been previously detached to bring on the baggage, were prevented from being present in the action; but I am thoroughly convinced, that had it been otherwise, they would have distinguished themselves equally with the other troops. I enclose for His Excellency's information a return of the killed, wounded, and missing of the divisions I have the honour to command, as also of the ordnance, &c., captured from the enemy.

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EXTRACT OF LETTER FROM NAGPORE, DATED 30TH  
DECEMBER 1817.

*(Papers respecting the Pindarry and Mahratta Wars, page 158.)*

On the 18th our batteries opened against the town, and our fire was well kept up with the Rajah's guns and powder, without however having the effect we expected. The houses are high and strong, the streets narrow, and the Arabs kept up a constant and most annoying fire from loop-holes and windows, where we could not even see them. On the 24th the General ordered the town to be stormed. The troops advanced, were received by a most destructive fire from matchlocks, jingals, &c., and obliged to retreat with the loss of three hundred men killed and wounded. Lieutenant Bell, of the Royals, killed; wounded, Majors McLeod and Elliot, Lieutenants Cameron, Cowl and Davis, &c. &c. &c. sly.

We had nothing left for it but to send for our battering train, which will arrive in eight days. The Rajah's guns will not breach. The Arabs, however, were alarmed, and sent Vakeels on the 26th. The terms granted them are, to leave the city, with their arms, families and effects, at 12 o'clock this day: to be escorted by an European officer to Malkapoor, and then go where they please. They have given their most respectable men as hostages; and before I conclude, I hope to tell you of the British flag being planted on the palace of Nagpore.

The Rajah remains in our camp. He will be restored to the Musnud, but his hands will be well tied up. He seems to have lost all authority. His horse are plundering the country, but will soon be obliged to disperse, as we have now two regiments of cavalry and seven hundred reformed horse, and another regiment with one thousand more of the reformed coming to us.

*Two o'clock p.m.*—The Arabs have evacuated the city. We are lords of Nagpore: and I believe I may add that the war with this State is ended.

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LETTER FROM BRIGADIER-GENERAL DOVETON, TO THE  
ADJUTANT-GENERAL, DATED CAMP AT NAGPORE,  
26TH DECEMBER 1817.

*(Papers respecting the Pindarry and Mahratta Wars, page 173.)*

In further prosecution of operations against the Arabs and other troops in possession of the Rajah's palace, and other strong stone buildings in the city of Nagpore, I have the honour to report, for His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's information, that having succeeded in obtaining possession of a commanding situation on the bank of the Goomah Tulore, nearest the town, and

within two hundred and fifty yards of the gate of that name, a battery was soon erected in it, by the indefatigable exertions of Captain Davis, senior Engineer in the field, and such of the enemy's captured guns as were deemed by Lieutenant-Colonel Crosdile, commanding the artillery, of sufficient calibre to be useful, having been mounted in it, the battery opened on the morning of the 21st, with a view, if possible, to effect a breach in the old palace wall; the firing of that day, however, having convinced me that this object was not attainable with such ordnance, the firing was directed on the Joomah Durwazah, with a view of laying it open, so as to enable me to establish the troops in that advanced position.

On the evening of the 23rd instant, the Commandant of Artillery and Chief Engineer having made known to me their opinions, that the firing had produced such an effect as to render it probable that the object in view would be accomplished with little or no loss, and which was confirmed by every information I could obtain, I immediately issued the necessary orders for a combined attack on the gate, as well as on the Toolsee Baug, and another advanced position (with a view of closing on the enemy), to be carried into execution the following morning, when the additional corps had moved down for the relief of the several posts.

The attack on the Joomah Durwazah was made under my own eye; that of the Toolsee Baug by Lieutenant-Colonel Scott; and the other advanced position by the Nizam's troops, under the command of Major Pitman. The troops rushed from the battery about half-past eight o'clock, on a preconcerted signal, as did the other two attacks; but I am concerned to state, for His Excellency's information, that on the arrival of the leading division at the gateway, the breach was not found sufficiently wide to admit of a section entering it at once, and the enemy having taken the



precaution of lining several stone houses on both sides of it, as well as of the street leading to it (which could not be perceived from the battery) with numerous parties of Arabs, entirely secure from our fire, the troops, after being exposed to a heavy one for some time, were obliged to take shelter in the adjoining compounds, from whence the attempt was kept up; finding, however, little or no probability of their being likely to obtain possession of the gateway, I directed the recall of the troops to the battery, which was executed slowly and in good order.

The attacks under Lieutenant-Colonel Scott and Major Pitman were more successful; but the former having obtained possession of the garden, found it, contrary to information, too extensive and exposed to the fire from the wall of the town to be retained but at too great a price, and as that on the principal gate had not succeeded, I directed Lieutenant-Colonel Scott to resume his original position, which was effected also with great steadiness. Major Pitman's situation being now of little or no consequence, he was likewise ordered to make a similar movement, which he did in the same creditable manner. Although unforeseen and invincible obstacles opposed the success of the troops on this occasion, I have much pleasure in reporting, for His Excellency's information, that the officers and men displayed their accustomed gallantry; and I beg leave to accompany this with a copy of the order which it appeared to me proper to issue on the occasion.

His Excellency will perceive, from the accompanying return, that several valuable officers have been wounded (and a very promising one lost to his country in Lieutenant Bell, of His Majesty's Royal Scots); but, with the exception of Lieutenant Cameron, of the Quarter-Master General's Department, and Lieutenant Cowl, of the artillery, none, I am happy to say, severely.

Our loss on the occasion has not been so heavy as might have been expected from the unknown obstacles opposed to the success of the troops, and it is not of a nature to produce any other effect than obliging me to await the arrival of my battering train, which has been ordered in from Akolah.

The number of Arabs in possession of the strong buildings in the town are supposed to amount to near three thousand, exclusive of Hindoostanees and other troops.

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LETTER FROM BRIGADIER-GENERAL DOVETON TO THE  
ADJUTANT-GENERAL, DATED NAGPORE,  
30TH DECEMBER 1817.

*(Papers respecting the Pindarry and Mahratta Wars, page 175.)*

In further continuation of my proceedings at this place, I have the honour to report, for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, that on the day subsequent to the attack of the 24th, the Arab chiefs, in the city of Nagpore, made a communication of their willingness to evacuate it on certain conditions being allowed them; and having the next morning sent out their principal chief, or Peerzaddah, to conduct the negotiation, I have the pleasure to make known to His Excellency, that all points being satisfactorily arranged between the Resident, the Arab chief, and myself, they and the other troops evacuated the town this day at noon; our troops marched in and took possession of it, and the British flag is now flying on the old palace.

I beg leave to offer my congratulations to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on this favourable termination, not only as highly honourable, but I trust also highly advantageous to the public interests at the present crisis of affairs, and as leaving my

division available for the further execution of His Excellency's instructions. I shall not, however, be able to commence my march from this place for several days, as, from the late convulsed state of affairs, some time and the presence of a commanding force are, in the opinion of the British Resident, as well as myself, imperiously requisite.

P. S.—The Hindoostanees and other troops of the Rajah in the town amounted to upwards of five thousand; the Arabs to three thousand. The city has been made over to the British Resident, and placed at his disposal.

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LETTER FROM THE RESIDENT, MR. JENKINS, TO THE  
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, DATED NAGPORE,  
30TH DECEMBER 1817.

(*Papers respecting the Pindarry and Mahratta Wars, page 176*).

I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Most Noble the Governor-General, that the city of Nagpore was this day evacuated by the Arabs and other troops occupying it, on terms requested by them; and that the British troops obtained possession at about half-past two P. M., when the British standard, hoisted on the palace, was saluted with twenty-one guns from the battery.

This event may be considered to complete our military operations in this quarter, with the exception perhaps of having to disperse some small parties of horse. Many of the principal people had already come in, and the rest are now flocking to the Residency. Proclamations have also been issued throughout the country in the Rajah's name and my own, which will, I have no doubt, render everything tranquil.

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